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BRUÈRE, HENRY. *The New City Government.* Pp. xxii, 438. Price, \$1.50. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1912.

This book supplements admirably the series of works on commission government that have appeared recently. It is the first attempt to apply the accepted standards of administrative efficiency to the commission system. One of the greatest difficulties with which municipal reformers have had to deal has been the deep-rooted belief of the American people that administrative efficiency can be secured through mere changes in governmental organization. The most unfortunate effect of this belief has been that every change in the form of city government has been followed by widespread disappointment because of the failure to secure the expected results. It seems a matter of very great difficulty to convince the American people that good government cannot be secured by a mere revision of city charters. As Mr. Bruère aptly says: "Modern progressive standards of municipal efficiency cannot be attained merely by the processes supplied by the commission plan. They demand a new social sense to animate the work of officials and to guide the purposes of citizens who control them; they require a new technique of service to augment returns obtainable from public expenditure. In attaining these standards commission government has at present an advantage over those cities which still suffer from political control. But this advantage will be lost unless the new government immediately avails itself of its special opportunity to make city government a progressive and efficient instrument for promoting community welfare."

The work contains the results of a survey of ten commission cities. This survey was intended to provide a fact basis for judgment regarding the general character of commission government administration. The investigation was conducted with great thoroughness and the results show that while the commission system has certain very definite advantages over the other forms of municipal government prevailing in the United States, because of the greater concentration and more definite determination of responsibility, the administration of the commission governed cities has been successful in proportion as they have applied the most advanced standards of administrative efficiency to the conduct of municipal departments.

Mr. Bruère's book when read in connection with Bradford's book on Commission Government and the special volumes on Commission Government issued by the National Municipal League, and by the American Academy of Political and Social Science gives to students of municipal government as well as to administrators ample basis for a judgment on the desirability of extending the commission system.

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BRUÈRE, MARTHA B., and ROBERT W. *Increasing Home Efficiency.* Pp. 318. Price, \$1.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1912.

This is a book for all educators, clergymen, social workers and business men. It is primarily addressed to the middle class. Beginning with the first chapter, the problem of a much-needed adjustment to new conditions is clearly brought

out. The authors devote chapters to What is a Home For? The Basis of Efficiency, Chance versus the Budget, First Aid to the Budget-Maker, Home Administration, The Home and the Market, Training the Consumer, Launching the Child, Savings and Efficiency. Some of the material in these chapters has been published in the various periodicals from time to time. The brilliancy of the authors' style and the sane social point of view set forth, should go towards popularizing budget making by families of the middle class.

From an analysis of seventy-six family budgets and other available data, the authors come to the conclusion that \$1,200 is the financial minimum for social efficiency for an American family consisting of father, mother, and three children under working age (p. 29). "No budget will make an income of less than \$1,000 enough for bare health and decency; it cannot spend one dollar twice" (p. 77).

In the chapter on the Cost of Children, the authors point out that an analysis of many budgets shows that costs "increase from \$100 for a child between three and five, to \$128 when the child is seven years old, \$180 when it is between ten and twelve, and \$212 when it is between fourteen and sixteen. They are based on the uncertain costs of middle-class standards, on the varying demands for health, and education, and a start in life" (p. 211).

The authors are constantly calling attention to the fact that brains and muscle as well as money outlay must be considered when one is discussing costs. The crux of the problem is significantly expressed when the authors state that "the most serious unanswered question in the development of home efficiency is—not whether people can afford to have children, but whether society can afford to have those people who are intelligent enough to count the cost, go without them" (p. 235).

The study is summed up thus: "So long as women do not do the work set for them to do, and men make business a gamble and a sport, our homes cannot be efficient. Business is woman's affair as much as man's. The home is man's affair as much as woman's. What we need to-day is the domestication of business and the socialization of the home" (p. 292).

The value of the book could have been greatly enhanced for the serious student of family budgets by a preface describing the methods employed in gathering and checking up the budgets. Furthermore, the appendix which contains an excellent tabulated summary of the seventy-six family budgets should also contain typical questionnaires sent out or used personally by the authors.

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The Catholic Encyclopedia. Vols. XIII (pp. xv, 800) and XIV (pp. xv, 800).
Price, \$6.00 each. New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1912.

A large number of articles of general interest find a place in these two volumes which discuss topics included alphabetically between Revelation and Simon. While it happens that those of a purely historical character are not numerous, several that come under this heading will repay serious consideration as giving the Church's interpretation of famous events. Such are M. Goyau's summing up of the French Revolution and Burton's English Revolution of 1688; St. Bar-